

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2443

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

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STATE ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR RUSH

SECDEF FOR DDR&E - DR. CURRIE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MARR, GW, NATO, FR

SUBJECT: ROLAND II

REF: PARIS 20957 (NOTAL)

1. IN WAKE OF US/FRG/France NEGOTIATIONS IN PARIS
AUGUST 18-19 CONCERNING ROLAND II, SEVERAL GOF
OFFICIALS HAVE BRIEFED US ON THE FRENCH REACTION

AND FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR THIS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM. OUR
SOURCES WERE UNANIMOUS THAT THESE MOST RECENT NEGOTIATING
SESSIONS

WERE QUITE SUCCESSFUL AND SEEMED TO PUT THE THREE NATIONS
ON THE PATH TOWARD RESOLVING THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS THAT
HAVE PLAGUED THE ROLAND II SUBJECT OVER RECENT MONTHS.

IN THEIR VIEW, THE SENSITIVE QUESTIONS OF SALES TO
NORWAY AND ROYALTIES HAVE BEEN PRACTICALLY SOLVED.
WHILE QUESTIONS STILL REMAIN ON THE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS OF
PRIMARY INTEREST FOR THIRD COUNTRY SALES BY EACH OF THE
THREE PARTICIPANTS' OUR SOURCES ARE CONFIDENT THAT

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THIS ISSUE CAN BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. MOREOVER,

OUR SOURCES MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR TO US THAT FRANCE WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAKE THE ROLAND II ARRANGEMENT AN EXAMPLE OF HOW COOPERATIVE ARMS PROGRAMS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN THE BEST INTEREST OF ALL THE PARTICIPANTS.

2. COMMENT: WHILE WE SUSPECT THAT HARD BARGAINING WITH THE FRENCH AND GERMANS STILL REMAINS BEFORE WE ARE OUT OF THE WOODS ON THIS SUBJECT, WE DETECT A STRONG WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE FRENCH TO MAKE EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT TO REACH AN ACCOMMODATION SATISFACTORY TO THE U.S. THE KEY PLAYER ON THE FRENCH SIDE (DELPECH) SEEMS PERSONALLY COMMITTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM. FURTHERMORE, HE SEEMS QUITE PREPARED TO SLAP DOWN THE NITPICKING OF SOME OF HIS SUBORDINATES. THE CLOSE PERSONAL WORKING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DR. CURRIE AND DELPECH HAS BEEN A KEY FACTOR IN OUR SUCCESS SO FAR, AND WILL BE KEY IN THE FUTURE. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, WE ANTICIPATE THAT FINAL AGREEMENT SHOULD BE ATTAINABLE BY EARLY FALL.
GAMMON

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